

Media update
16 December 2021

Regional Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP) update

The Wellington Regional Waste Management and Minimisation Plan Joint Committee met on 6 December to discuss progress with the WMMP.

About the WMMP

The Wellington WMMP is a joint plan, which sets the priorities and strategic framework for managing waste for all of the territorial authorities in the Wellington Region.

Once the plan is adopted, actions are carried forward by each of the councils into their Long Term and Annual Plans to ensure the resourcing is available to deliver the plans' goals and objectives.

The current WMMP (2017-2023) sets the primary waste reduction target, to reduce the amount of waste being sent to Class 1 landfills by a third by 2026.

The eight Councils of the Wellington Region are moving ahead with a range of local and regional actions to support the WMMP. Progress so far is summarised below, and more detailed information is on pages 20-34 of the Agenda.

Completed actions

Development & implementation of regionally consistent bylaw provisions

The Councils have worked collaboratively to develop a suite of consistent Solid Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaws. The bylaws came into effect in late 2020/early 2021.

The new bylaws introduced waste minimisation for the first time, and created the regulatory platform required for the introduction of waste operator licensing.

Actions underway

Regional Waste Operator & Facility Licensing/National Waste Data Framework

There is currently a lack of waste data in New Zealand, which is hampering the ability of councils to plan their waste management and minimisation activities.

With this in mind, the eight Councils have committed to implementing the National Waste Data Framework through the establishment of Waste Operator and Facility Licensing.

Waste operator licensing is proposed to come into effect in January 2023, in accordance with the Councils' respective Solid Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaws.

The development of draft licensing standards is currently underway, and industry engagement with the waste sector is planned for early 2022.

Initiatives to extend resource recovery

Each of the eight Councils has made significant progress in investigating and implementing initiatives which extend resource recovery within the region.

Initiatives planned or already underway include:

- Provision of new battery recycling service provision within Upper Hutt and Wellington City.
- Kerbside service efficiency and diversion optimisation across Lower Hutt.
- Expansion of recycling stations in rural and public places within the Wairarapa.
- Hazardous waste drop off at Silverstream transfer station.
- Development of business case for a resource recovery park in Porirua.

In 2022, the next phase of this work will extend into the investigation of food waste collection and processing technology options and end markets. This will include the consideration of community-based composting and technology-based processors.

Next steps

Waste Assessment

The review phase for the WMMP will commence in the second half of 2022. Under the Waste Minimisation Act (2002), a Waste assessment must be completed as part of the review.

The Waste Assessment will enable council officers to identify key issues and priority actions that need to be included in the next WMMP in 2023.

Council officers will report back to the Committee with a new Waste Assessment on 5 September 2022. This will be followed by reporting back on preliminary draft action plan provisions for a revised WMMP in December 2022.

For more information, please contact:

Chair of the Wellington Region Waste Management and Minimisation Plan Joint Committee,
Laurie Foon, 021 963 270